

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Original): A method of adjusting a liquid droplet quantity, in which, by a forward movement and a forward stopping of a plunger sliding while closely contacting with an inner wall face of a tube, a discharge quantity of the liquid droplet discharged from a discharge port communicating with the tube is adjusted,

wherein a moving speed of the plunger moving forward from start of deceleration to stop is adjusted such that the liquid droplet discharged from the discharge port becomes constant at every discharge.

2. (Original): A method of discharging a liquid droplet, wherein the liquid droplet is discharged by controlling an operation of the plunger to a moving speed adjusted by the adjusting method of the claim 1.

3. (Original): A method of discharging a liquid droplet, which coats the liquid droplet discharged by the method of the claim 2 onto a work.

4. (Original): A method of forming a liquid droplet, in which a liquid material discharged from a nozzle tip is formed into the liquid droplet by a forward movement of a plunger sliding while closely contacting with an

inner wall face of a tube,

wherein a uniform liquid droplet is formed by controlling a speed of the plunger moving forward from start of deceleration to stop.

5. (Currently amended): An apparatus for discharging a liquid material, which possesses a tube, a plunger sliding while closely contacting with an inner wall face of the tube, a discharge port communicating with the tube and discharging the liquid material so as to be scattered, and a control means controlling an operation of the plunger,

wherein the control means controls a moving speed of the plunger moving forward from start of deceleration to stop is adjusted such that the liquid droplet discharged from the discharge port becomes constant at every discharge.

6. (Original): An apparatus for discharging a liquid material of claim 5, comprising an input means indicating the moving speed of the plunger moving forward from start of deceleration to stop to the control means.

7. (Original): An apparatus for discharging a liquid material of claim 6, wherein the control means controls the operation of the plunger on the basis of data concerning the moving speed of the plunger moving forward from start of deceleration to stop, which has been inputted by the input means.